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Bangalore Mirror

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CHEATER BEATER

CBSE tightens reins; will use algorithm and analytics to detect and eliminate malpractice during exams

METRO MINDS THE GAP

When ops were limited to 42 km, Metro saw 4 lakh riders, now it is 3 lakh

MISSING: A ROAD THAT HAS BEEN SWALLOWED UP

Cross-road that used to exist is completely encroached upon, claim residents

Cycling to school is a fun thing to do as a child. Now, a city school management 'isn't allowing children to pedal to school'

BICYCLE THIEVES

How bizarre: 'Can't come by foot too'

Sridhar Vivan & Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The state government recently allowed schools to function by opening up in-person classroom sessions. Many students have gradually started to head towards school as a result.

Strangely enough, students at a prominent school in Jayanagar fourth block were in for a surprise on Monday.

The school administration, we are told, has strictly forbidden students from walking or cycling to the school. If students have to reach the school by foot, they have to get a written permission from the school, with parents' signatures. As far as cycling is concerned, it is completely barred for students below ninth standard.

"My 13-year-old son is in the seventh standard. He has been going to school since a fortnight. Initially, I used to drop him at school.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

"Earlier, the state government provided free cycles to school students... Now, top schools are asking children not to use cycles. This is absurd. — Narasimha A, techie parent

No walkers on the wild side

Rain, covid fear affect footfall at city's biological park

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The Bannerghatta National Park's Zoo and the Biological Park witnessed a steep decrease of visitors in the month of November primarily because of the incessant rains that brought the city to a standstill, and now the fear of the covid-19 variant Omicron's spread, according to the park authorities.

"The footfall at the national park was more than 1.5 lakh visitors in the month of October this year and the revenue collected was around Rs 3.66 crore. The number of visitors decreased to 1 lakh in the month of November with a revenue collection of Rs 2.65 crore. After November and through December it was only a few visitors frequenting the park on a regular basis due to the continuous rainfall," chief conservator of forests (CCF) and Bannerghatta National Park director Vanashri Vipin Singh told Bangalore Mirror.

"The decrease in footfall was due to the incessant rainfall in November, and now the fear of the Omicron variant of covid-19 has added to the drop in visitors," Singh added.

Almost half the month of April this year followed by May and June had zero visitors due to the lockdown. Back in January this year, the national park had a footfall of 1.3 lakh visitors and the revenue generated was Rs 3.15 crore. In February, the park and the zoo had only 93,000 visitors followed by 70,000 in March. The revenue collected by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Catch a play

Antaranga, a theatre group based in Bengaluru, has been staging relevant, contemporary Kannada plays for the past 41 Years. The group is excited to present Project Nagna, their latest production. This is a Kannada adaptation of the English play, Project STRIP.
Originally written by Ram Ganesh Kamatam, it has been translated to Kannada by B Suresh and is directed by Archana Shyam. It promises gripping twists and turns, and subtle humour.
Where: Seva Sadan, Malleswaram
When: December 17, 7 pm
Register: bookmyshow.com
Ticket: Rs 150

02 Picture this

The Kirloskar Vasundhara International Film Festival showcases thought-provoking films about flourishing nature, nutritious food and a healthy society.
It will showcase how our modern way of living is affecting our planet, our food and our lives while causing irreparable damage to the future generations. The films have been carefully curated to create a sense of urgency, evoke conversations and inspire action.
When: Until December 17, 11 am to 3.30 pm and 6 pm to 10.30 pm
Register: insider.in

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CHEATER BEATER

CBSE tightens reins; will use algorithm and analytics to detect and eliminate malpractice during exams

A file photo of students checking test results

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The Board will use advanced data analytics to detect, respond to and, in the long run, prevent any irregularities in academic testing across all major CBSE-administered exams in the country

Schools and education departments have tried every trick up their sleeves to curb malpractice during exams. From deputising flying squads to sitting squads to installing CCTVs and jammers they have done it all. Unfortunately, miscreants have proved that where there is will, there is a way.

As students indulging in malpractice are turning to tech, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) too is determined to fight back with algorithms and data analytics to catch cheaters.

Antriksh Johri, Board Director (IT), said, "A pilot analysis was conducted during the Central Teachers Eligibility Test (CTET) in January, this year where data in collaboration with Central Square Foundation (CSF) and Playpower Labs was used to develop algorithms to identify suspicious data patterns at the centre and even at the individual test-taker level. Based on the analysis, results and the algorithms developed, CBSE decided that such analysis must be extended to other administered examinations as well."

CBSE will use advanced data analytics to detect, respond and in the long run, prevent any irregularities in academic testing across all major CBSE-administered exams in the country. On the basis of such analysis, CBSE aims to identify examination centres where the data indicates the existence of malpractices during the conduct of examinations.

Post these measures, appropriate actions will be taken by CBSE to strengthen the reliability of the examinations and to deter any such malpractices in the future. The system will be used to strengthen the reliability of National Achievement Survey (NAS), Central Teachers Eligibility Test (CTET) and Board examinations conducted by CBSE.

Integrated payment system

CBSE is also introducing Integrated Payment System (IPS), a newly developed system that has digitally transformed a previously manual and time-consuming system.

"Prior to the development and implementation of IPS, payments made to various functionaries would undergo a long and time-consuming process due to the manual nature of the system. Being a national education body, the responsibility of conducting public examinations for schools affiliated with CBSE and various other competitive examinations such as CTET, recruitment tests, etc., lies with the Board. Close to 10 lakh faculty members including, principals and teachers offer their services for the smooth conduct of such examinations. Similarly, around 10,000 principals and educational administrators are also appointed for inspections of schools for affiliation/upgradation. All functionaries involved in examination or affiliation-related duties are to be paid an honorarium and TA/DA for their services after they manually generate a bill to the concerned authority. The payment process used to take almost six months. This was because the process would pass through several manual checks by officials. For exam duties, after such checks, CBSE would distribute the money to the centre superintendents, who would further disburse the payments to various functionaries. For affiliation duties, CBSE would make payments to principals and educational administrators, after such manual checks. This led to several steps and involved a large number of individuals in the payment system," Johri added.

Automatic calculations

The introduction of a normative payment system through Integrated Payment System (IPS) allows for automatic calculations which eliminates the need for human intervention. After the submission of inspection reports in case of inspection duties and duty compilation certificate in case of exam duties or other such supporting documents, IPS allows direct bank transfers of honorariums and TA/DAs to the intended payee. This has been achieved through software integration with the bank payment gateway.

Metro does mind the gap

When ops were limited to 42 km, Metro saw 4L riders, now it is 3L

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The ridership of Namma Metro has reduced considerably from last one year, reportedly due to the covid situation. The BMRCL had set the target of 15 lakh commuters daily in the year 2019-20, but they could meet only 27 per cent of the target. When Metro operations were limited to 42 km, around 4 lakh commuters were travelling daily. Now, with the distance increased to 56 km, the overall ridership has reduced to 3 lakh a day.

When the pandemic started and with subsequent lockdowns, Metro operations were stopped. While Metro was operational, most companies continued work from home. This resulted in reduced commuters. International Association of Public Transport, prepared a report that revealed -- In the year 2019-20, the number of daily commuters is 9,456 per kilometre. This is followed by 40,650 in Mumbai Metro, Delhi Metro 14,653 and Chennai Metro having 2,553 commuters travelling in Metros per kilometre.

Reasons for the decline

Following the strict rules, allowing the commuters to carry a smart card, reducing the Metro operating period, the discount of smart cards was reduced from 15 per cent to 5 per cent. The increased rates also contributed to reducing the number of commuters.

Lack of proper connectivity is reducing the number of commuters. Most Metro stations have no parking facilities. The fee for parking in the Metro station where parking is available is too high, so people are willing to go by their own vehicle. It resulted in reducing Metro commuters. The lack of publicity to attract customers by BMRCL is also another reason for this.

Expensive work

Building a Metro line needs land acquisition, resulting in more investment. So, the Metro development is at a slower pace in the country. Namma Metro in Bengaluru requires Rs 327 crore for the development of Metro lines. In Bengaluru, even though the number of commuters is reducing, work

Ridership has dipped due to covid fear, ongoing work from home system and smart card mandate

is in progress. After completion, there will be an increase of commuters. Now, Namma Metro is 56 km, it is planned to expand to 199 km by the year 2027.

The work under progress is 132.63 km and 91 stations. CM Basavaraj Bommai has given the target to complete all the projects by 2024. But, at the current speed, it is very difficult to meet the deadline. The Managing Director of BMRCL assures the deadline would be met. Now, Kengeri-Challaghatta line is to be completed by March 2023, Baiyappanahalli-Whitefield line by December 2022, Nagasandra-Madavara by September 2022, Rashtriya Vidyalaya Road-Bommasandra by December 2022, Gottigere-Nagavara by March 2025, Central Silk Board-KR Puram by September 2027 and KR Puram-Kempegowda Airport line will be completed by December 2027.

Bizwoman loses Rs 9.5 lakh to robbers

The Basaveshvara Nagar police arrested a gang of six, within 12 hours after they allegedly robbed a businesswoman and her partner worth over 9.5 lakh worth gold valuables and cash after blackmailing them on Sunday.

The victim's bank account was left only with Rs 1.82 after the gang members wiped it clean. Victim Anju J, a garment and cosmetics seller, was residing alone, the police said. The prime accused Deepa, who knew about Anju's business, hatched a plan and roped in her associates to rob her.

As per the plan, Deepa visited Anju to discuss the business when Anju's partner Jagadisha had also come to supply cosmetics, the police said.

While Anju, Deepa and Jagadish were discussing business, the other accused -- four women and four men -- barged into the house and accused them of carrying out immoral activities. They disrobed Jagadish and videographed him with Deepa. The accused then demanded a ransom of Rs 5 lakh and ransacked the house and took away the gold valuables and cash of Rs 1.7 lakh forcibly. The accused, along with Deepa, fled from the scene after locking Anju and Jagadish in the house. Anju managed to open the door and with the help of her neighbours alerted the police.

Based on a complaint from Anju, a team of policemen led by police inspector Yerriswamy analysed the CCTV footage and managed to track down six of the accused.

The gang transacted money through Jagadish's digital wallet. The transaction also helped our men to track them soon, said Sanjeev Patil, DCP, west division. —BMB

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TOWERING TROUBLE

In Cambridge Layout, tree hangs over heads, homes of residents, including senior citizens... They fear it could fall, cause irreparable damage

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

KAUSHIK JN

The tree leaning over the house, pressing against the compound wall

A couple of senior citizens in Cambridge Layout live in constant fear of a tree that towers over their home and is now pushing against their compound wall. The looming danger of the tree has affected three houses who have been repeatedly calling various authorities concerned to help them. Sadly, officials are only passing the buck.

Their homes are also located near a stormwater drain and the tree from the land across the drain has been leaning towards the houses. It is worrying because another tree fell over the stormwater drain just three months ago.

"Civic authorities must safeguard our lives. We are very scared to stay at home," said 76-year-old Prabhakar who lives with his 66-year-old wife.

According to the parties concerned, authorities continue to pass the blame and refuse to provide any solution. "We notified BBMP regarding the problem but no action has been taken. They informed us that they need to take permission to cut the trees and it's very difficult to cut trees over a stormwater drain. They will require cranes to remove the tree. When we approached the forest department, they too tried to pass their responsibility on by stating that the tree is over the drain," said Dr Laxminarayan, former corporator.

After repeated calls, tree branches of the tree have been trimmed. "Upon insisting, we wrote a letter to them a week ago. They informed us that they are required to take special permission to cut the tree on the military land. Officials came and took pictures but no action was taken," a dismayed Prabhakar told BM.

> **"Civic authorities must safeguard our lives. We are very scared to stay at home**
>
> –Prabhakar, 76-year-old resident

Another resident, affected by the tree, S Premalatha has been a resident in this area for the past 35 years. She said that in the past 20 days she has made 30 calls to the forest department and BBMP. The huge trees near the stormwater drain could potentially fall on a house with an RCC sheet roofing and a sheet shed. She has also written a letter to the forest department regarding this.

For frog's sake

Forest department will organise two-day-long festival to raise awareness about frogs of Western Ghats

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Karnataka's forest department is organising 'Kappe Habba' (frog festival) in Shivamogga to create awareness about frogs and other amphibians in Western Ghats.

The two-day event will be celebrated on December 18 and 19 with several delegates, including the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and other important researchers and scholars specialising in Amphibian conversation.

This festival, a product of the forest department, aims to produce a similar effect as the Dandeli Hornbill Festival or Moth Festival in Doddaballapur, Bengaluru that celebrates the local fauna in the best way possible.

Taking into consideration the vast wildlife in Western Ghats, which is available in Shivamogga, the department thought they could highlight conservation issues at Western Ghats through this festival.

Earlier the event was supposed to be a small function catering to only 50 people but as different people enquired to join the event the limit has been extended to 150. As frogs are mostly active during the rainy season, during the months of June and July, it is when they plan to collaborate with around 500 researchers to practically document and update the overall database of frogs. The researchers will be divided into teams to scale 930 sq km of Sharavathi LTM Sanctuary to work on the project.

The main aim of the whole event and the upcoming project in 2022 is to understand why different species of frogs are endangered in Western Ghats.

Most of the areas where the frogs live aren't penetrable by humans so this event will further highlight the indirect ways that we are causing harm to several amphibian species.

At the same time, solutions to prevent and conserve amphibians like frogs are to be discussed here. "Many kinds of frogs that were visible in the 1980s are not visible now. Our guess is, this is due to the predatory actions of bigger frogs against driver frogs of smaller size," said IM Nagraj, Deputy Conservator of Forests.

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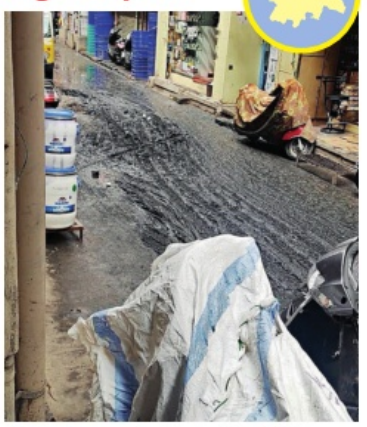

BBMP has not cemented this road post works and left it slushy. Kumbarpet Main Road has been in this state for three days now and is stinking.

No parking
Domlur Layout

Folks have been parking on 7th Cross despite signage directing them to do otherwise.

Bananas over tomatoes
Bengaluru Urban

Poor quality tomatoes are being sold at Rs 80 per kg. A reader wrote to BM, "The government must prevent such things."

How to ace campus placement interviews

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Confidence and adaptability are the two biggest factors that could contribute to success in campus placement interviews with companies, say engineering colleges sources.

Recruiters are on the lookout for those who are multiskilled and can effectively communicate that across. Technical, communicative, managerial and organising skills are among the top skills companies look for. "It is important for students to have a grasp on the fundamentals. They must be prepared not just for university but the universe at large. English is a must-know tool and communication skills are important in all roles. Some candidates have subject knowledge but if they don't know how to articulate it, how to make a presentation, they fail," says Dr Savitha Rani, Head of Training and Placement Department at Ramaiah Institute of Technology. Dr Savitha has won awards for her role in youth empowerment by facilitating placements for freshers.

While being ahead academically is preferred, companies are looking for quick-learners so as to be instantly adaptable to the ever-changing needs of the workplace and the industry.

"Before going for their placement interviews, students should ensure their academics are taken care of. At least a 70% grade is recommended. This is the minimum at which companies start hiring students," says Dr H Ramakrishna, principal of Sapthagiri college of engineering. "But to join a good company, they need to develop their skill sets. It needs to be 360 holistic development of skills including communication, technical, managerial, organising and research skill that has become very important now."

Being innovative and out-of-the-box thinking are other qualities that companies are looking for in candidates.

Experts also recommend taking up internships while studying as those months of experience will stand out on your resume and will help companies understand that you've got a taste of the industry. This experience will also reveal to you what skills are in demand.

"These skills cannot be acquired overnight. Students need to work on these skills right from the first semester. Also, they need to take up internships. It will give them an idea of the reality of the industry," says Dr H Ramakrishna.

Another skill valued almost anywhere that students often overlook is the ability to work in teams. The success of many organisations depends on the effectiveness of their teams and so companies value those who are good at working with other people. "Working in teams is very important. The success of an individual depends on the team and the success of the team depends on an individual. And the success of an organisation depends on the team being able to communicate and work effectively," adds Dr Savitha Rani.

AICTE warns public against imposters offering jobs

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has issued a warning cautioning the public against imposters posing as its officials and approaching people on the pretext of recruiting them to the council. "It has come to the notice of the AICTE that people claiming to be AICTE officials (imposters) are approaching people (on the pretext) that the AICTE is recruiting officers for all vacancies including Taluk/District Coordinators, Head Zonal Officers, Zonal Officers etc.," AICTE member secretary Rajive Kumar said in an order. "It is hereby intimated that no such recruitments are being made by AICTE and any such incident be reported to AICTE in the Official Communication email IDs which are available on AICTE website www.aicte-india.org. "AICTE is not responsible for any such fake recruitments made by the said imposters. Criminal proceedings shall be initiated against such people as per law," he said.

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Wireless parenting: Phones turn foe in parent-kid bond

74% believe that they get irritated when their children ask for attention

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There has been a 32 per cent increase in the time spent on smartphones from the pre-covid period, according to a latest study which says that with the increase in mobile phone usage, parent-child relationships are deteriorating. Around 80 per cent smartphone users are on their gadgets, even when they're spending time with their kids. A whopping 74 per cent of Indian parents feel that their relationship with their kids may be hurt because of smartphones.

The report titled 'Impact of Smart phones on Human Relationships 2021', focuses on the behavioural impact on children due to excessive use of mobile devices, both by kids and their parents. The report was conducted by Vivo and in association with Cybermedia Research (CMR). The study showcases the impact of smart phones on users and its effect on relationships. The third edition of Switch Off focusses on a unique angle of relationship dynamics, especially in context to excessive use and all-pervasive presence of smartphones in our lives. The study sheds light on the various trends, patterns associated with smartphone usage and analyses the changing behaviours of consumers.

"This has its ramifications on the psychological and cognitive development of children. Around 90 per cent of parents confess that their children display signs of aggression due to their extended smartphone usage. The same number of parents feel that their children are sometimes lacking in acceptable moral and social behaviour. Yogendra Sriramula, Director, Brand Strategy, Vivo India said, "It is an undisputed fact that smartphones have become an integral part of our lives, helping us stay connected with work and social circles, giving us access to information and improving our productivity. However, their excessive use is impacting human behaviour and relationships."

> **Around 90% parents say their kids display signs of aggression due to their extended smartphone usage**
>
> –Yogendra Sriramula, Vivo India

Obsession of smartphones is climbing the ladder, and decreasing attention spans are evident. While the time that we spend with our kids and family has gone up by 57 per cent and 49 per cent respectively, the quality of time spent has deteriorated. The 74 per cent of Indian parents feel that their relationship with their kids may be hurt because of smartphones. Around 75 per cent of them admit to having been distracted by their phones and not being attentive to kids. Around 69 per cent of people believe that they lose track of children, surroundings and people when they are engrossed to the phone, and 74 per cent admit to getting irritated when their children ask them something.

Impact on children's behaviour

Around 90 per cent of parents confess that their children display some signs of aggression owing to their extended smartphone usage. Around 85 per cent of parents feel that their children find it difficult to mix with other kids in a social setting and the overall outdoor experience to be daunting and 90 per cent of parents feel that their children are sometimes found to be lacking in acceptable moral and social behavior

Impact of covid-19

Today, smartphones are integral to every day functioning and in a pandemic impacted world, they are integral to our existence. Consumers claim to spend an average of 6.5 hours on their smartphone per day, a 32 per cent increase from the pre-covid era. Smartphone Addiction– Literally, the smartphone is the place where we live. Our smartphones are our digital home. Around 94 per cent of people agree that the smartphone has become a part of their bodies and they cannot separate from them. The overall dependency on phones has increased and there is no sacred space, people use their phones while eating food (70 per cent), in the living room (72 per cent) and even while sitting with family (75 per cent).

BNP visitors down amid rain, covid

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Bannerghatta Park and Zoo authorities was Rs 2.33 crore in February and Rs 1.8 crore in March.

The footfall declined further in April 2021 to 28,000 visitors with a revenue generated of Rs 73 lakh. It was then the lockdown was announced until July after which the facility was opened up again in phases. In July this year, Bannerghatta Park had 52,000 visitors and the revenue generated was Rs 1.33 crore. This gradually increased to 89,000 visitors in August and 99,000 visitors in September with revenues generated of Rs 2.27 crore in August and Rs 2.55 crore in September respectively.

The month of October saw the highest number of visitors this year — over 1.5 lakh. The zoo authorities were confident the footfall would only increase in November, and by and large it would increase during the holiday season up to December end. However, the continuous rainfall and the fear of the new covid variant have no doubt affected the number of visitors to the biological park. Even during the weekends, there are not many visitors coming to the national park and zoo because of the incessant rainfall coupled with the fear of covid-19, zoo authorities pointed out.

'No walking, cycling to school'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, as I got busy with work, I asked my son to cycle to school, which is at a distance of 1.5 km. I didn't want him to take the school bus: due to the covid precautions and it is expensive for us. After a few days, my son was told not to come by cycle as it was against the school policy. However, I asked my son to continue to cycle to school. On Monday, while at work, I received a call from the school management asking me to rush there. The management informed me that my son had violated the school policy; hence, I had to take my son home and along with the cycle." Narasimha A, a techie and a resident of Jayanagar fourth block told BM.

When contacted, a prominent academician who runs a chain of schools in the city who apparently did not want to be named said: "We haven't said anything about refraining students from using bicycles, the choice of transport to be used by the student to commute to the school is up to the individual student. Our school would not indulge in imposing such restrictions. Students can use any form of transport; we haven't imposed any such restriction in the past 61 years. We are not aware of any parent making such claims, however, we do not know about any such announcements or restrictions made by the school management. We do not usually talk to the students about the safety of students while commuting; it's the responsibility of the parents. Many are already commuting to school on cycles. Probably, some teachers would have spoken to the students about riding safely on the road; some students are indeed riding rashly on the road."

Narasimha, who is also an avid cyclist, said it is ironic that the state government is promoting cycles to school: "Earlier, the state government provided free cycles to school students so that they can independently pedal to schools. However, some of the top schools are now asking children not to use cycles. This is absurd."

Another parent who faced the same problem added: "When we were students, we used to go only by cycle. The schools used to provide dedicated space for parking our bicycles. However, now, we are seeing that many students are ditching cycles and illegally driving two-wheelers — a classic case of under-age driving. So, instead of promoting green initiatives like cycling, schools are forcing such draconian rules on children."

Reacting to the development, Bengaluru Bicycle Mayor Sathya Sankaran noted: "In the era of the climate crisis, the young need to cultivate better habits than the previous generation. Many of us are campaigning to alter behaviours and the adults seem to be stuck in habits they refuse to let go. Not only are they refusing to change, they are imposing their arrogance on the young. Schools not allowing children to come by bicycle or foot and insisting on using private motor vehicles are not just regressive, but it raises doubts on the quality of education these schools impart to the youngsters. We can't blame the government if institutions of learning are unable to create a better human being. They are nurturing the very same bad habits that have gotten the city and the world into this mess."

Missing: A road that has been swallowed up

Cross-road that used to exist is completely encroached upon, claim residents

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Residents of the Mudaliyar Layout and the nearby KPC Layout in Kasavanahalli in Mahadevapura constituency are an anxious lot as a BBMP cross road named Kasavanahalli 5th Cross has been missing for over the past five to six years now. All the residents get to see is a compound wall built across the road by a local landlord whose site is adjacent to one side of the road and the other side it is encroached by an upscale apartment complex property in Kasavanahalli.

A local Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Ashok Mruthyunjaya and his party men have written to the local corporator and the constituency MLA Aravind Limbavalli about the missing Kasavanahalli 5th cross and have requested the MLA to take it up with the BBMP to find where their road went.

"We are also contemplating on filing a missing complaint on the Kasavanahalli 5th cross road with the local police station," Mruthyunjaya said only half in jest. He along with his partymen have organised a protest in Kasavanahalli after giving the MLA and the local corporator, 15 days' time for acting on the road encroachment.

This is the photo of the road that was taken six years ago

"As this happened 5-6 years ago, I am unaware of the issue. I will ask the engineers concerned to visit the spot and verify what happened to Kasavanahalli 5th Cross –Venkatachalapathy, Mahadevapura Jt Commissioner

Resident Welfare Association members of Mudaliar Layout told Bangalore Mirror that they had photographs of the road six years ago in 2014 where BBMP also had put up a board stating 'Kasavanahalli 5th cross'.

There are around 60 houses built in the Mudaliyar Layout and around 300 houses in the KPC Layout. "Earlier, while using the 5th Cross, all residents of Mudaliar Layout and a good number of KPC Layout residents would reach their houses within a stretch of 100 metres, but now all of us from both the Layouts have to take a detour of half to one kilometre round about through the approach road to the KPC Layout's 6th cross and then come into Mudaliar Layout," a local resident said.

A couple of years ago, the RWAs of both the layouts had invited the local corporator and the MLA and apprised him about the missing road, but in vain. "It looks like the real estate coterie are more powerful than the corporator and the MLA," another resident claimed. "BBMP's budget was also sanctioned and work orders were issued twice to take up work on roads including Kasavanahalli 5th cross, but it has never happened," Mruthyunjaya said. Joint Commissioner, Mahadevapura Zone Venkatachalapathy told Bangalore Mirror that since this has happened five to six years ago, he was not aware of the issue. "I will ask the engineers concerned to visit the spot and verify what happened to Kasavanahalli 5th Cross," Venkatachalapathy said.

Besides this missing road, there are other matters worrying the residents. The other roads in Kasavanahalli have all been washed away in the recent rains. "Along with this, open defecation and pigs menace is also prevelant so one side of the houses is permanently kept shut due to the stench," a member of RWA of Mudaliar Layout told BM.

Alcoholic husband thrashes wife, daughter and flees

Pragna L Krupa
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A mother and her daughter who were beaten up badly by her husband have approached the child helpline and the Whitefield police, seeking help. The drunk husband managed to flee after the hoysala staff arrived at the stop in Gandhipuram.

Sophia (name changed), 38, a resident of Gandhipuram, has four children all aged below 15 and she works as a housemaid. Her husband, M, an alcoholic, would often pick fights with her.

Stella said that last week her husband, who got drunk, came home and started to beat her and elder daughter for trying to protect her mother. She said, "As we have no money, we had to discontinue studies of my two daughters aged 11 and 13 three years ago. My husband has no work and harasses me for money. He hit me with his belt multiple times when my daughter tried to stop him and tried to shield me he picked up an iron rod and attacked my daughter on her legs," she said.

The woman has sustained a deep injury and had to get stitches on her leg. "I had no money to pay for her hospital bills and had to borrow money. I complained to Makkala Sahayavani so my husband left the house. He then returned on Saturday and attacked me with wooden logs before dragging me to the road. He pulled me by my hair and bashed my head against the wall in front of the whole neighbourhood," she said.

The man overpowered the policeman who had gone to the house and ran off

"My husband has no work and harasses me for money. He hit me with his belt and when my daughter tried to stop him, he picked up an iron rod and hit her –The 38-year-old woman

The incident happened late at night on Saturday and she decided to approach the police and file a complaint on Sunday. However, even before she could approach the police, the husband returned home and locked them up inside the house. Her daughter managed to make a call to her friend who called the hoysala. Sophia said, "The hoysala came to our house and one policeman came upstairs to rescue us when my husband overpowered him and escaped from the place. I filed a complaint with the police and I was counselled at the police station. Earlier too, he had been to the prison but he did not change and continued to harass us regularly and this time, both police and the helpline counsellors suggested that I send him to the de addiction centre."

Police said that they have taken her written complaint and are waiting for her to come back to them as she requested some time to decide whether to send him to de addiction center or take legal action against him.

IN BRIEF

Netflix India cuts prices

Netflix India has dropped prices across its subscription plans in a bid to expand its user base amid intense competition from a host of other Indian Subscription Video on Demand (SVOD) players. The company has reduced its popular mobile plan to Rs 149/month from Rs 199/month. The basic plan now costs Rs 199/M instead of Rs 499/month, the standard plan stands at Rs 499/month instead of Rs 649/month and the premium plan is down to Rs 649/month from Rs 799/month. The new plans are being termed 'Happy New Prices' by the company and come into effect on December 14, 2021.

Monika Shergill, Vice President, Content, Netflix India, told ET that the timing of the price cut ties-in with the content strategy and the timing of new content coming out. "Over the last three weeks, we have been rolling out big titles. And as per the Netflix calendar, we will have big titles across series and films coming out regularly. And now that content is ready for this large audience, it was just the right time to go deeper, to appeal to a wider base. The aim is to create value through entertainment but also at great prices," said Shergill. —ETimes

BJP 1 seat short of majority

The ruling BJP on Tuesday fell one seat short of gaining a simple majority in the Karnataka Legislative Council.

The party bagged 11 of the 25 seats, from 20 Local Authorities' constituencies in the state, for which the biennial election was held on December 10, and counting was taken up today, poll officials said.

The opposition Congress also managed to clinch 11 seats, while the JD(S) has won Hassan seat and is leading in one of the seats in Mysuru. An independent candidate has managed to win one of the two seats in the prestigious Belagavi constituency, they said.

With these results, BJP's strength in the 75-member 'Upper House' has gone up from 32 to 37, while the Congress' tally declined from 29 to 26, and the JD(S)' numbers came down from 12 to 10 (if it wins Mysuru).

Over 99 per cent voter turnout was recorded in the December 10 elections from all the 25 seats, for which 90 candidates were in the fray, including twenty each from BJP and Congress, and six from JD(S).

A harrowing flight indeed

Passengers, including some legislators, of the flight of a private carrier that was supposed to land in Tirupati on Tuesday morning had a harrowing experience as the aircraft allegedly developed a technical problem before finally making a detour and landing in Bengaluru. The airlines allegedly demanded each passenger to pay Rs 5,000 to let them disembark but ultimately gave up after stiff resistance from the travellers, which included ruling YSR Congress MLA RK Roja.

Roja, also a film actor, warned of legal action against the company handled the situation.

The flight from Rajamahendravaram to Tirupati, both in Andhra Pradesh, took off at 9.00 am on Tuesday and was supposed to land in Tirupati around 10.30 am. However, it did not land at the Tirupati airport allegedly due to a technical problem and hovered for some time in the air.

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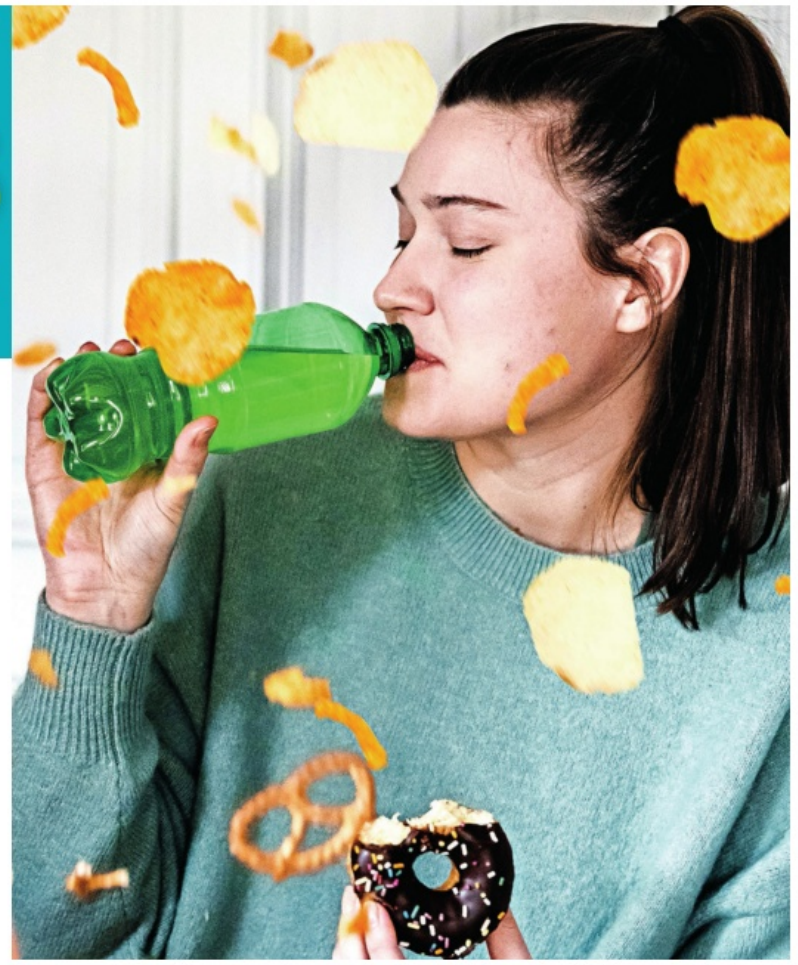
ADIOS MIDNIGHT MUNCHIES

Late-night cravings are associated with poor lifestyle, learn how to curb them



Having a regular and healthy lifestyle is important for our body's proper functioning. Providing the body with nutrition, exercise and good sleep is the key to health! When something or the other from these factors fluctuate, you can see the effects in your health and wellbeing, one such being midnight cravings. Surprised? Read on as Shweta Shah, Chief Nutritionist at Fitza – Your Digital Wellness Buddy, helps us understand this seemingly normal phenomenon.

"Midnight cravings are cravings you get at the odd hour when you should be actually sleeping. Now the problem with them is that they cause sleep disturbances as you are hungry and can't sleep. Your blood sugar levels spike up, and you feel acidic or heartburn the next day. You start gaining weight which in turn, leads to obesity in the long run," says Shah. The foods people majorly crave are sugar loaded or spice loaded, which would commonly fall in the junk food category. You don't usually have the time or energy to make something healthy in those hours, and the first thing you can quickly prepare is instant noodles or you can snack on a packet of chips or cookies!

So, how do we know when the cravings are getting serious? Shah replies, "Even the duration or the period of time you have been snacking for at midnight can be an important factor in determining how serious the problem could actually be. For instance, craving food once in a while during the night is normal, which indicates you might have been hungry through the day. So, your body needs food to put you to proper sleep." Note that if you have cravings at midnight every or every other day, it can indicate an underlying cause. The cause can be something bigger than just hunger pangs; maybe you need to make some alterations in your lifestyle to stop them.

This brings us to the causes for midnight cravings. Mostly, there is never one reason for midnight cravings, but Shah says your hunger pangs can be the result of one of below factors or a combination of them.

Poor nutrition: Maybe you are not eating nutritious food during the day that will help you stay full. When you are not satiated, you are bound to snack on junk food at odd hours. Try following a proper diet and add more nutritious foods to your daily routine.

Lack of satisfaction from meals: Oftentimes, you may eat nutritious food and healthy meals but never get satisfied. To feel happy, 80:20 ratio is the rule – eat 80 per cent nutritious food, and the rest 20 per cent can be your favourite food items so that you stay satisfied and avoid bingeing at night. But remember, moderation is the key!

Zero exercise: Not exercising during the day makes you less tired and unable to sleep, and when you are unable to sleep, you binge! Exercising even promotes healthy eating habits, so give it a try.

Bad sleep schedule: Maybe you are eating right during the day, but not getting enough sleep as you tend to binge-watch shows and movies late into the night. If this is the case, your body probably doesn't know what to do except eat mindlessly. So get your circadian rhythm going and aim to get proper rest.

Work stress: A poor work schedule can lead to stress, often leading to binge-eating or you completely foregoing your meals. When you don't eat right at work, you are likely to indulge at night; try managing your stress so this does not happen.

Hormonal imbalances: These can be caused due to any or all of the above causes. Get started with a healthy lifestyle by addressing these concerns and you'll resolve hormonal imbalance and subsequent bingeing.

Shah adds that having a healthy and filling dinner is a must to put an end to your midnight cravings. "Our body is on rest and repair mode during the night, and when you eat something at that time, it switches to digesting food, leaving it no time to repair or have restful sleep. This, you feel tired the next day and keep following the same cycle," she says.

You can also start with switching to healthier midnight snacks. "Anything that comes out of a packet is a strict no! So, avoid chocolates, instant noodles, chips, biscuits, brownies, etc," suggests Shah. Listing better optional foods you can have to purge your cravings, she says, "Berries, nuts, a spoonful of peanut butter, sprouts bhel, quinoa salad, peanut salad, skimmed yoghurt, zucchini noodles, sauteed vegetables, vegetable or paneer cutlets, boiled or scrambled eggs, whey smoothie, whole grain crackers, makhanas, popcorn, carrots, roasted gram are safer options to binge on at midnight. You can even quickly prepare a warm soup that will help you sleep."

Another great idea is to save leftover during dinners if you know you are going to work late at night and will need something to snack on later. "A quick chapati wrap with vegetables is way better than processed food. A bonus tip: Have a glass of warm turmeric milk before you go to bed to stop cravings and also enjoy the benefits of a great sleep," says Shah.

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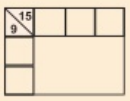

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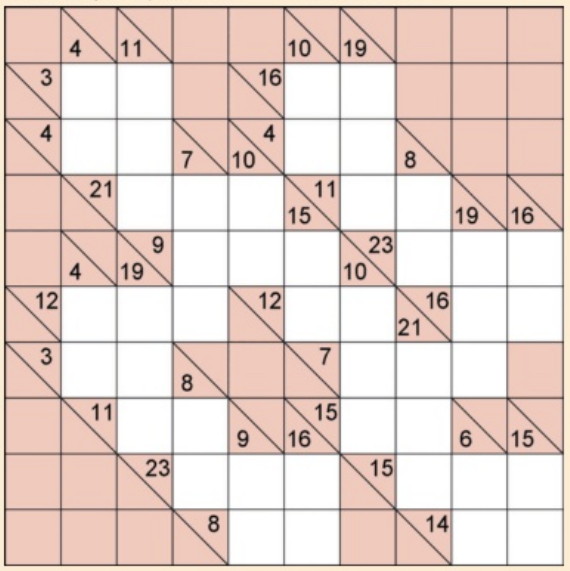

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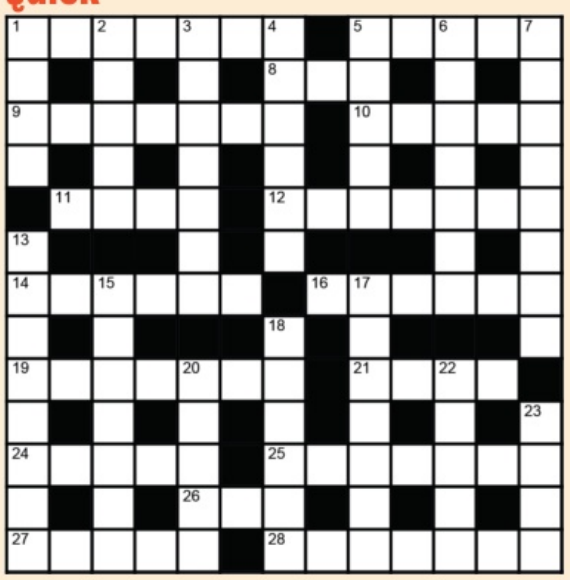

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10 Female relative (5)
11 Eve's hubby (4)
12 Pays heed (7)
14 Go aboard ship (6)
16 Inventor Thomas Alva ___ (6)
19 Reindeer (7)
21 India's ___ capital: Bangalore for sure (4)
24 Lavish repast (5)
25 Firearm with limited range (7)
26 U.S. Security org. (3)
27 Midday meal (5)
28 Leftovers, remnant (7)

DOWN

1 Suggestive (4)
2 ____ to : incapable of appreciating? (5)
3 Srinagar locale (7)
4 Logically-not irrationally (6)
5 Camping shelters (5)
6 Unavailing (7)
7 Approval (8)
13 Calm (8)
15 Advantageous purchase (7)
17 Doubtful, uncertain (7)
18 College treasurer (6)
20 Product of one baking (5)
22 Advanced furtively (5)
23 ___ or twice : a few times (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS D

SV'O M LMLG IGLOUA KXU KMAVO VU XGML KXMV XG ZUGOA'V KMAV VU XGML.

Linemaro

Does beauty run in your family?

Mindchow

Opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss

Joke of the day

In a hotel in Jamnagar: Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9 and 11 A.M. daily

Loop

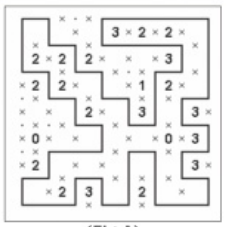
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

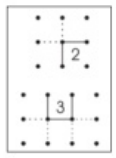
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

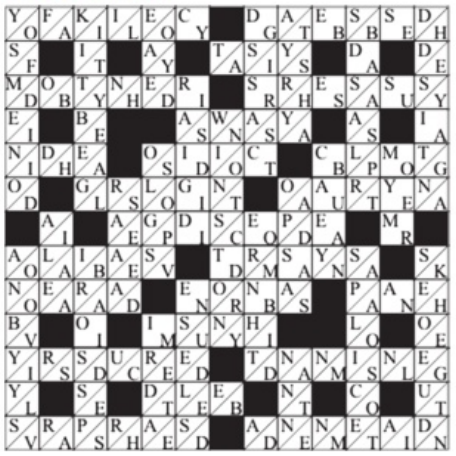


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

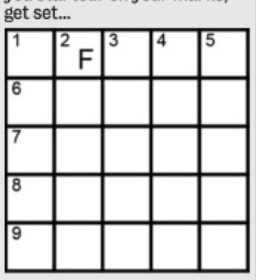
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 To Oaf; 6 Pa pop; 7 Nitre; 8 Taped; 9 Dunes

DOWN

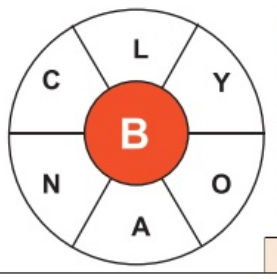
1 A pain; 2 Found; 3 Depot; 4 O peep; 5 Start

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

D		F		I	
	X		R		M
E		M		O	
	A		V		R
G		N		V	
	E		A		?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

9				2				1
4			7		3			5
	6						3	
	9		2		4		6	
5	8						1	2
	1		3		5		9	
	4						5	
2			1		6			7
3				5				6

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 21
2 5 7 7

Medium = 42
2 5 7 9

Hard = 29
4 7 8 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

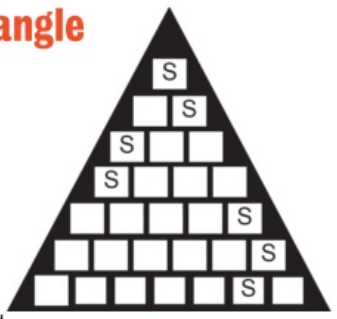
Differences: 1. Spatula is longer. 2. Cap is different. 3. Cook top is wider. 4. Window is added. 5. Burger is moved. 6. Stripe on shirt is thicker.

Riddler

When is L greater than XL?

Alpha triangle

1 Sulphur symbol
2 Less more
3 Lapse
4 Trig function
5 Blood vessels
6 Fleets
7 Least worldly



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

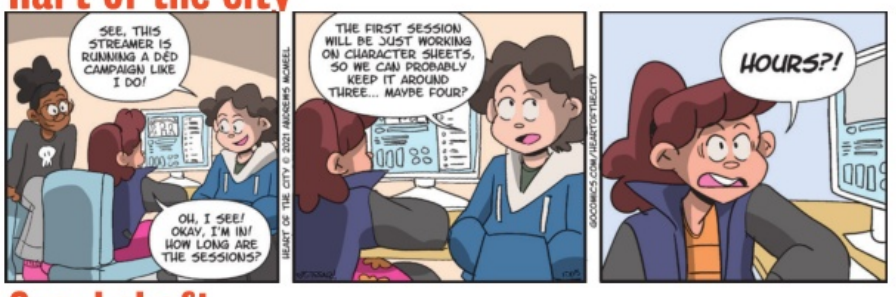
Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Wayno & Piraro 10-12-21
HOMES FOR SALE
These are too pricey. After a thousand years in a lamp, I'd be happy upsizing to a dollhouse.
BIZARRO.COM
©2021 BIZARRO SYNDICATE
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


SEE, THIS STREAMER IS RUNNING A D&D CAMPAIGN LIKE I DO!
OH, I SEE! OKAY, I'M IN! HOW LONG ARE THE SESSIONS?
THE FIRST SESSION WILL BE JUST WORKING ON CHARACTER SHEETS, SO WE CAN PROBABLY KEEP IT AROUND THREE... MAYBE FOUR?
HOURS?!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2021 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@OOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

MAY I HELP YOU?
I READ YOUR COLUMN ON HOW THE NEWSPAPER IS STRUGGLING.
Centerville Sentinel
I PAY FOR THE PAPER ONLINE NOW... BUT IF IT WOULD HELP...
I BROUGHT IN MY PENNY SOCK FOR YOU.
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

I, PROSHPERO, THE CAT WIZARD, CAN PROPEL US BACK THROUGH THE CENTURIES OF TIME!
WOW.
HOW FAR BACK WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO?
BREAKFAST WOULD BE NICE.
mutts.com
www.kingfeatures.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you are blessed by the moon. There is a feeling of joy around you, which will help you enjoy your day-to-day work. Your vital power may help you take tough decisions, which will increase your profits in the near future. You may plan for a work-related short trip. Colleagues may support you to complete your work on time. Students may be more focused on studies.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel dull and sleeplessness may affect your mental and physical health as well. You may also be upset due to health issues of a family member. Your expenditure on worthless items may affect your savings. You may become a victim of conspiracy so you are advised to keep an eye on your opponents.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, your past investments may give you good profits. You may get good results after an easy project. Your obstacles may be cleared now. Your financial status may be improved and new sources of income may arise. Couples may hear good news in terms of kids. You may get success easily after a little effort.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you are likely to meet someone with the help of whom you may expect positive growth in your business or work. Your destiny may favour you and your losses may be converted into profits. Financial health may be on track now. Love birds are advised to take some important decisions in terms of marriage. Singles are likely to find their soulmate.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, situations are under control. You are blessed by Jupiter today and you may expect to get some important position or post in the office. You may feel inclined towards religion and mythology. You may feel stronger in the mind. This may make you confident in your way of working. You may also plan for a short trip.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel unhappy and dull, which will affect your work and there may be some delay in your projects that have to be completed. It may affect your prestige in your professional and domestic life. It is advised to avoid adventurous trips and driving fast. Love birds may experience strains in relationships or even break up. Job seekers may hear disappointing news.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may perform your best in the office. You may see good bonding with the boss and you may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Chronic health issues may be cured now. You may get good incentives at your work also. Disputes with the siblings may be resolved now. Job seekers may find a new job.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel healthy, and your old ailments are sorted. You may hear some good news from your near relatives. You may perform well in the office and your colleagues may help you with a critical project. You may develop faith in your subordinates. It may increase your prestige in society. You may also hear good news in some legal matters.

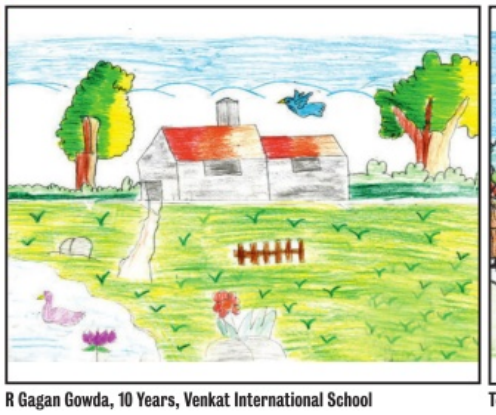
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are likely to be busy with kids' education and career matters. You may hear some good news in terms of kids' academics. But love birds are advised to keep patience in terms of their relationships. Investors are advised to avoid investing in risky assets, as that might lead to losses. It is advised to do meditation, yoga or chanting some mantras to come out from this tricky situation.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you will be a victim of dissatisfaction, as you may not get good results of your hard work. It may bring you disappointment and make you upset. You are advised to read documents carefully before signing a contract. Investment in assets may also be possible. You are advised to follow your intuition before making investments in fixed assets.

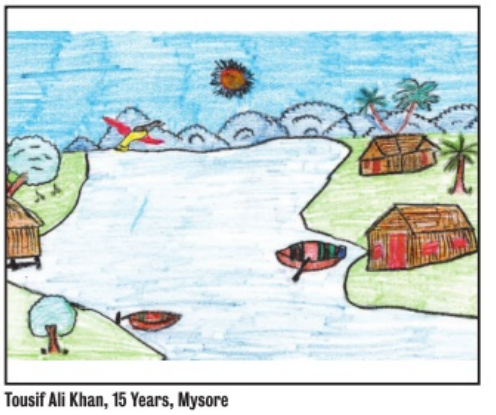
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may be busy with social get-togethers and family events. It may expand your network. You may also plan for a work-related short trip. Disputes between siblings or friends may be resolved now. Your colleagues may cooperate with you to complete a difficult project. You are likely to complete all the tasks with self-confidence.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may implement some new plans in your family business which will pay off in terms of gains in the near future. You may also be busy in a family or social get-together. You may spend to buy some creative artifact for home decor, which may increase your social status. Today you should be careful in matters of teeth, ears, eye, nose and skin.

KIDZONE



R Gagan Gowda, 10 Years, Venkat International School



Tousif Ali Khan, 15 Years, Mysore

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= (−2·2−4·(−6)·2)·(1/2)
= (−4−16+36)·(1/2)
= (−20+36)·(1/2)
= 16·(1/2) = 4

BULL'S EYE
ably, bacon, BALCONY, bony, nobly

STRIKE OUT

O	A	K	M	L	E	Y	D	A	B	B	E	D		
F	I		Y	T	I	S		A		S		E		
M	O	T	H	E	R		R	H	E	S	U	S		
I		B		A	W	A	Y		A		I			
N	D	A		O	D	I	C		C	L	O	G		
D		G	R	O	I	N		O	A	T	E	N		
A		E	P	I	S	O	D	E		R				
A	L	I	A	S		T	R	A	N	S		S		
N	E	R	D		N	O	B	S		P	A	H		
V	I		M	U	N	I			L		O			
I	S	S	U	E	D		T	A	M	I	N	G		
I		S		D		T	A		L		O			
S	A	S	H	E	S		D	E	M	E	A	N		

FAST FIVE

A	F	O	O	T
A	D	E	P	T
I	N	T	E	R
P	O	P	P	A
N	U	D	E	S

QUOTE UNCODE
It's a rare person who wants to hear what he doesn't want to hear.

RIDDLER
When you are using roman numerals

QUICK

L	U	N	C	H		R	E	S	I	D	U	E		
F	E	A	S	T		S	H	O	T	G	U	N		
E		G		A	R		I		D		O			
A		A		B		U			G					
C	A	R	I	B	O	U		B	E	E	R			
E	M	B	A	R	K		E	D	I	S	O	N		
P		I		Y		S		I						
A	D	A	M		L	I	S	T	E	N	S			
Y		N		H		E		T		L		S		
C	R	I	M	S	O	N		N	I	E	C	E		
A		L		A		P	E		S		L			
R	E	B	U	K	E	S		T	H	U	M	B		

MENSA PUZZLE
X. Start at the top left and move in alternate boxes from left to right, then down one row and to the left, in a snakes and ladders pattern. Letters advance through the alphabet in steps of 2, 3, 4...8, before repeating this pattern.

SUDOKU

3	7	8	4	5	9	1	2	6
2	5	9	1	3	6	8	4	7
1	4	6	8	7	2	9	5	3
6	1	2	3	8	5	7	9	4
5	8	4	9	6	7	3	1	2
7	9	3	2	1	4	5	6	8
8	6	7	5	4	1	2	3	9
4	2	1	7	9	3	6	8	5
9	3	5	6	2	8	4	7	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, Is, Sin, Sine, Veins, Navies, Naivest.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 7 + 7 + 5 = 21
Medium
9 + 2 − 5 x 7 = 42
Hard
4 x 8 + 4 − 7 = 29

LOOP

KAKURO

9	2	1	7	6	8	5	4	3
3	1	2	4	9	5	7	6	8
4	8	3	1	7	6	2	9	5
1	4	9	6	8	7	3	5	2
2	3	8	5	4	9	6	1	7
5	6	7	2	3	1	9	8	4
6	9	4	8	5	3	1	7	9
8	7	5	9	1	2	4	3	6
7	5	6	3	2	4	8	9	1

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 # Kim's to be a lawyer
Kim Kardashian has revealed that she has passed the baby bar exam and is on her way to becoming a lawyer.

BangaloreMirror | 12
Wednesday, December 15, 2021
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You win some, you lose some

Deepika on her 'battles' with hubby and on what keeps their relationship healthy and strong

Talking about her bond with hubby Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone recently revealed her secret to a healthy marriage.

When asked about that one thing that keeps her relationship going, the actress told Film Companion that it's their communication skills that play an important as well as best role for them. While the two keep having agreement and disagreement, as long as they are communicating, it makes their marriage easy and puts them on the same page. "Of course, at times there are battles where he would win and I have to say 'Ok fine, take this one'. And there are times when I say something and I am very firm about my belief and he says 'okay I disagree with you but I think ok' We have those moments too" she added.

Addressing Ranveer's flamboyant side, she revealed she tries to put 'a leash on him' on this front. Ranveer, on the other hand, understands her thoughts, so Deepika has also wrapped her head around it and doesn't intend to change him simply because it's a part of the actor's personality that makes him happy. "So he's having fun. It's fine," she signed out. —ETimes

Head over heels

A look at couples who made their relationship official this year

In a world where relationships are fragile, B-town celebrities have always tried to keep their love life a secret. However, whenever they were sure they had found the 'one', they embraced it publicly. Love was certainly in the air in Bollywood this year as we witnessed a lot of hush-hush couples coming out in the open about their relationship.

Here's a look at couples who made their relationship official in 2021.

Kim Sharma and Leander Paes

After being clicked by the paparazzi a few times outside the gym, Kim Sharma and Leander Paes grabbed headlines when their pictures from a Goa vacation went viral on social media. The couple kept making appearances in public together until they made their relationship Insta-official by sharing a picture of them on Diwali. Dressed in their traditional best, they looked beautiful together. They captioned the post, 'Happy Diwali from us to you. I hope you're happy and healthy always. Love and light.'

Vidyut Jammwal and Nandita Mahtani

Vidyut Jammwal surprised one and all after he announced his engagement with designer Nandita Mahtani. Vidyut reportedly popped the question while rappelling down a 150-metre high wall at a military camp close to Agra. In one of the interviews with a news portal, Vidyut had shared that, unlike others who don't talk about their relationships, he does not like to hide behind 'just friends' tag. In fact, the actor admitted that he loves to talk about Nandita.

Rakul Preet Singh and Jackky Bhagnani

Jackky Bhagnani confessed his love for actress Rakul Preet Singh on the occasion of her 31st birthday. He shared a sweet picture to wish her on the special day along with a romantic message. He wrote, 'Without you, days don't seem like days. Without you, eating the most delicious food is no fun. Sending Birthday wishes to the most beautiful soul who means the world to me!!! May your day be as sunny as your smile, and as beautiful as you are. Happy Birthday my (heart emoji). @rakulpreet.' Sharing the same picture on her Instagram account, Rakul wrote, "Thankyouuuu! You have been my biggest gift this year! Thankyou for adding colour to my life, thankyou for making me laugh non stop , thankyou for being you !! here is to making more memories together @jackkybhagnani.'

Athiya Shetty and KL Rahul

Athiya Shetty and KL Rahul have been playing hide-and-seek with the media for a long time now. The couple refrained from talking about their relationship. However, their dinner dates and outings spoke volumes about their love affair. They recently made their first public appearance as a couple at the special screening of Ahan Shetty and Tara Sutaria's 'Tadap'. The couple also posed for the paparazzi without hesitation, making it official.

Vikram Bhatt and Shwetambari Soni

Filmmaker Vikram Bhatt secretly tied the knot with art curator Shwetambari Soni in September 2020. However, the pair managed to keep the relationship under wraps until October this year, when Bhatt posted a warm birthday wish for his partner on social media. The two first met in 2016 and were supposed to work on a project together. While that did not happen, their love story blossomed.

Avatar Purusha release postponed

Covid fear has yet again pushed the release date of Avatar Purusha. Pushkar Mallikarjuna is backing the film funded by Arjun and Suni is the director of the film starring Sharan and Ashika Ranganath. The film was initially planned for release on December 10.

Avatara Purusha features Sharan in the role of a junior artist and he will be seen in different get-ups. "Sharan is known for his comic timing and Suni for his signature style. The combination of these two is sure to make for a good entertainer, and this is a film that can be enjoyed by the audience anytime when it releases. It doesn't have a time frame," says producer Pushkar.

He adds that the rise in Omicron cases across India has put the people in anxiety, who are hesitating to come to theatres. "We also feared 50% occupancy and weekend curfews. So we thought it is best to postpone the release," Pushkar told us and added a new date would be announced when we see the audiences coming to theaters without thinking about Corona. —Mahesha H

₹150 crore is Prabhas' Adipurush price

Prabhas may not be signing many films but the actor is surely pocketing a hefty fee. The superstar is in the news for his upcoming biggie 'Adipurush' and Prabhas has charged a whopping Rs 150 crore for the same.

Reveals a trade source, "Prabhas is way ahead of the Khans and Akshay Kumar who still churn out maximum Hindi releases. His remuneration for 'Adipurush', which is close to 150 crores, surpassed the fee that Salman Khan received for 'Sultan' and 'Tiger Zinda Hai' and what Akshay Kumar charged for 'Bell Bottom'.

Filmmakers and investors are willing to ride mega-budgets on Prabhas as he is the most dependable actor whose loyal fans ensure he's ruling on the numero uno spot."

Prabhas has also been selective in his brand endorsements and only represents a select few.

On the professional front, Prabhas committed five long years to 'Baahubali' which emerged as the highest-grossing franchise in India, post which he won hearts with his performance in 'Saaho'.

Up next, Prabhas will be seen in Om Raut directed 'Adipurush'. He will share the frame with Saif Ali Khan and Kriti Sanon in this historic entertainer. He also has 'Radhe Shyam' with Pooja Hegde and Project K with Deepika Padukone. —ETimes